President:
Tom Titmus
299-2030

Lafayette Historical Society

POST OFFICE BOX 133, LAFAYETTE, CA 94549

NEWSLETTER

Lafayette, California | February, 2000 | Vol. 27, No. 1

History in the Making—The Postal Service in Lafayette

The first program of 2000 for the Lafayette Historical Society will be on Tuesday, March 14th. David Obera, a former Postmaster of the Lafayette Post Office and LHS member will talk about the history of the Postal Service in Lafayette. Look for a separate announcement on this program.

—by Jop van Overveen

Lafayette Community Foundation Launched

As Treasurer of the newly formed Lafayette Community Foundation, I am happy to report that the Foundation has already received over $150,000 in donations. Most of this money is earmarked for construction of a replacement building for the Lafayette Library.

Former Mayor Ann Grodin, chair, and other organizers formed the Foundation last October. They point out that in addition to providing support for the Library, the Foundation will seek funds for cultural uses, preservation of open space, park development and programs for youth and senior citizens.

The new Library would replace the smaller, deteriorating branch opened in the 1960's. It is anticipated that the Lafayette Historical Society will have a lounge area in the new facility in which we can display artifacts and memorabilia depicting the city's 150-year history.

The Foundation is affiliated with the East Bay Community Foundation, which has given it a $25,000 grant. The East Bay Community Foundation will assist with the Lafayette Foundation's administrative, financial and grant-seeking work until the new organization can become independent.

The Lafayette Community Foundation seeks the help of Lafayette Historical Society members. To learn how you can support the Foundation as a participant or donor, join us at a wine and cheese event at the Oakwood Athletic Club on February 29, 2000, from 6-8pm.

—by Marechal Duncan

Time to Renew Membership in LHS

It's that time of year again, time to send a check to the Society for that amazingly small pittance we call "dues". Please cut out the Member Information form on the inside back cover of this newsletter, fill it in and mail it with your check in the envelope we've folded inside the newsletter.

Please let us know which activities you'd like to help with by checking them off on the Member Information form.

—by Ollie Hamlin

"We believe in the power of history to ignite the imagination, stimulate thought and provide enjoyment. Through our collections and programs we strive to link Lafayette's history to the lives of people."

Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2000

Mark your calendar for LHS's annual pot luck dinner meeting, scheduled for the second Tuesday in May, the 9th. Full details of the evening's program will be in the next newsletter.

Board of Directors Actions

March 9, 1999 meeting—

Heard reports on and discussed: possible East Bay Regional Parks assistance in maintaining the railroad signs along the Lafayette-Moraga Trail; nominating committee candidates for Director (Ollie Hamlin); status of the LHS Workshop (Bill Somerton); a newly-formed Lafayette Library Committee (Marechal Duncan); the LHS annual meeting (Keith Blakeney); recently-discovered papers from Carrie van Meter, an early Lafayette resident (Ollie Hamlin); compilation of a list of landmark markers in Lafayette (Bill Somerton).

September 14, 1999 meeting—

The Nominating Committee proposed election of the following people as LHS officers for the 1999-2000 year:

Tom Titmus, President
Marechal Duncan, Vice President
Paul Sheehan, Treasurer (incumbent)
Ruth Dyer, Recording Secretary (incumbent)
Ollie Hamlin, Corresponding Secretary (incumbent)

These officers were elected by the Board, as nominated.

Heard reports on and discussed: the redevelopment of Plaza Park (new name—Elam Brown Plaza; Marechal Duncan); current preferences for a new Library (Mary McCosker); formation of the Lafayette Community Foundation (Bill Somerton); 1999 Art & Wine Festival planning (George Wasson); and progress on installation of a plaque commemorating Lafayette's 2nd schoolhouse (Bill Wakeman).

November 9, 1999 meeting—

Heard reports on and discussed: a fundraising effort by the Contra Costa Historical Society; a letter from Bill Shurtleff (Bill Somerton); a proposal from Diddo Clark to rename Plaza Park for both Elam and Margaret Brown; progress in organizing the Lafayette Community Foundation (Marechal Duncan); future programs (Jop van Overveen); LHS Online status (Dorothy Walker).

January 11, 2000 meeting—

Heard reports on and discussed: March program (Jop van Overveen); Lafayette Community Foundation (Marechal Duncan); LHS Online (Gary Willcuts).

ELAM BROWN PLAZA UPDATE

Upgrading of Elam Brown Plaza, as part of the Downtown Plaza Project, will go out for new bids in February with construction scheduled to begin in late April. To make the project more cost effective, the new bid will allow the contractor to use the existing plaza area for staging of construction materials and equipment. In addition, construction will be allowed during daylight hours (9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) closing down one lane on Mt. Diablo Blvd. in the non-commuter traffic direction. The plaza area will be fenced and screened from public view during the construction period. The project is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

In connection with the Elam Brown Plaza upgrade, we are working on a proposal to restore the historic buildings on Plaza Way. Preliminary plans for the restoration are shown in the Albertson's (Lucky) Store Display case on the west side of the store.

--by Bill Somerton

1997/98 Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

Board of Directors

Tom Titmus, President . . . 299-2030
Marechal Duncan, Vice President 283-6812
Paul Sheehan, Treasurer . . . 284-1287
Ruth Dyer, Recording Secretary 283-8312
Oliver Hamlin, Corresponding Secretary . . 283-6822
Keith Blakeney 284-2221
Janice Crosetti-Titmus 299-2030
Mary McCosker 284-5376
Bill Somerton 284-9785
Joseph Van Overveen 283-3650
Dorothy Walker 283-3303
Bill Wakeman 283-3908
Gary Willcuts 283-0706

Committee Chairs

Annual Potluck Dinner, Richard Johnson 283-0199
Archives, Bill Somerton . . . 284-9785
Book Sales, Ruth Dyer . . . 283-8312
Community Relations, Marechal Duncan 283-6812
Displays, Bill Somerton . . . 284-9785
Fire Engine, George Wasson . 284-4603
Historian, Bill Wakeman . . . 283-3908
LHS Online, Dorothy Walker . 283-3303
Membership, Oliver Hamlin . 284-1446
Newsletter, Gary Willcuts . . 283-0706
Mailing, James Sturman . . . 932-7620
Oral Historian, Nancy Flood . 283-3409
Plaza Park, Ray Peters . . . 283-5256
Programs, Jop Van Overveen . 284-3650
Publicity, (vacant) . . . . . .
Walking Tours, Bill Wakeman 283-3908

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Lafayette Historical Society

MEMBER INFORMATION

(For multiple names/addresses, please photocopy this form.)

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Daytime phone: _____

Membership Categories and annual dues (please check one):

_____ Student membership $ 2.50
_____ Family membership $ 10.00
_____ Business membership $ 50.00
_____ Life membership $100.00

Make check payable to **Lafayette Historical Society** and mail to P.O. Box 133, Lafayette, California 94549

DUES $_____
Fire engine maintenance $_____
Sesquicentennial $_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED $_____

Please indicate your areas of special interest:

_____ Sesquicentennial
_____ Annual Dinner Committee
_____ Displays
_____ Newpaper Clippings
_____ Programs & Trips
_____ Walking Tours
_____ Archives
_____ Fire Engine
_____ Oral History
_____ Research
_____ Other _____
_____ LHS Online/Computers
_____ Landmarks
_____ Photograph Collection
_____ Telephone Committee

LHS CALENDAR

March Program—Old Buildings on Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Date:	Tuesday, March 14, 2000
Speaker:	Dave Obera, former Lafayette Postmaster
Place, time:	To be announced

Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner

Date:	Tuesday, May 9, 2000
Time:	6 pm Social hour, 7 pm Dinner, 8 pm Program
Place:	To be announced

May Board of Directors Meeting

Date	Tuesday, May 9, 2000
Time	After Pot Luck Dinner. Members welcome to stay for the brief Board meeting.

For information on membership, contact Oliver Hamlin, 283-6822.

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